



## Economic Overview And Outlook: Montana

### JOBS

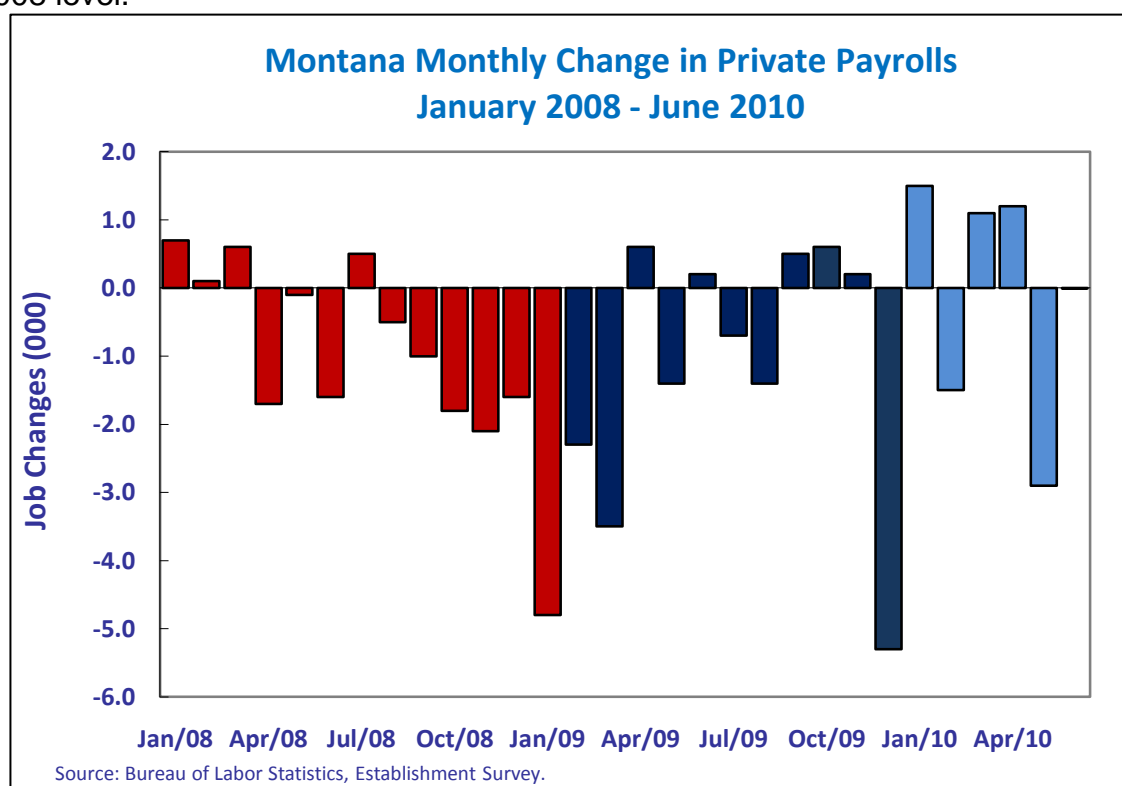
- Across the country, the private sector gained jobs in each month of 2010.
- The President's Council of Economic Advisers estimates that investments made through the Recovery Act have boosted employment in Montana by 10,000 jobs through the 2nd quarter of 2010.
- In Montana, private sector employment fell by 7.2 percent from December 2007 to December 2009. In 2010 private sector employment was basically unchanged at -0.2 percent.
- In Montana, employees in the construction, manufacturing, and mining sectors faced the largest job losses (as a percent of employment within an industry) over the recession. In 2010, the following sectors in Montana experienced the greatest employment increases: government; other services; and mining.\*
- As the economy recovers from the Great Recession, service-providing industries are projected to add the most jobs between 2008 and 2018, with the largest gains in professional and business services, education, health care and social assistance, and State and local government. Within the goods-producing sector of the economy, only the construction industry is projected to add jobs above its 2008 level.

### EMPLOYMENT

- The unemployment rate in Montana was 7.3 percent in June 2010, up 3.4 percentage points from December 2007, surpassing its most recent peak of 7.2 percent reached in May 2010.
- 36,000 Montana residents were counted among the unemployed in Montana during June 2010.

### EARNINGS

- Between the start of the recession in the 4th quarter of 2007 and the 1st quarter of 2009, inflation-adjusted total personal income in the United States declined 2.5 percent. Most recently, in the 1st quarter of 2010, total personal income remained 2.6 percent below the 4th quarter 2007 peak.



- Real per capita personal income (in 2005 \$) in Montana was \$31,010.70 in the 1st quarter of 2010, down from \$32,001.00 in the 1st quarter of 2008.

### HOUSING

- National home prices, including distressed sales, saw a significant improvement of 2.6 percent in April 2010 from April 2009 compared to 2.3 in February. In Montana, home prices experienced an increase of 0.1 percent in April 2010 from April 2009 compared with March's year over year decrease of 0.1 percent.
- The median price of single-family homes in Montana was \$215,000 in 2008, compared to \$250,000 nationwide.
- As of the 1st quarter of 2010, 1.9 percent of all mortgages, including 11.8 percent of subprime mortgages, were in foreclosure in Montana.
- Housing starts in Montana totaled 2,570 units (seasonally adjusted annual rate) in May 2010, an increase of 4.0 percent from April.
- Within the West census region, which includes Montana, sales of new single-family homes totaled 51,000 units in May 2010, a decrease of 53.2 percent from April. Sales of existing single-family homes increased 5.4 percent to 1,170,000 units (at seasonally adjusted annual rates) from April to May 2010.

\* For Montana-specific labor sector statistics, please refer to the Montana office:  
<http://www.ourfactsyourfuture.org/cgi/databrowsing/?PAGEID=4&SUBID=190>

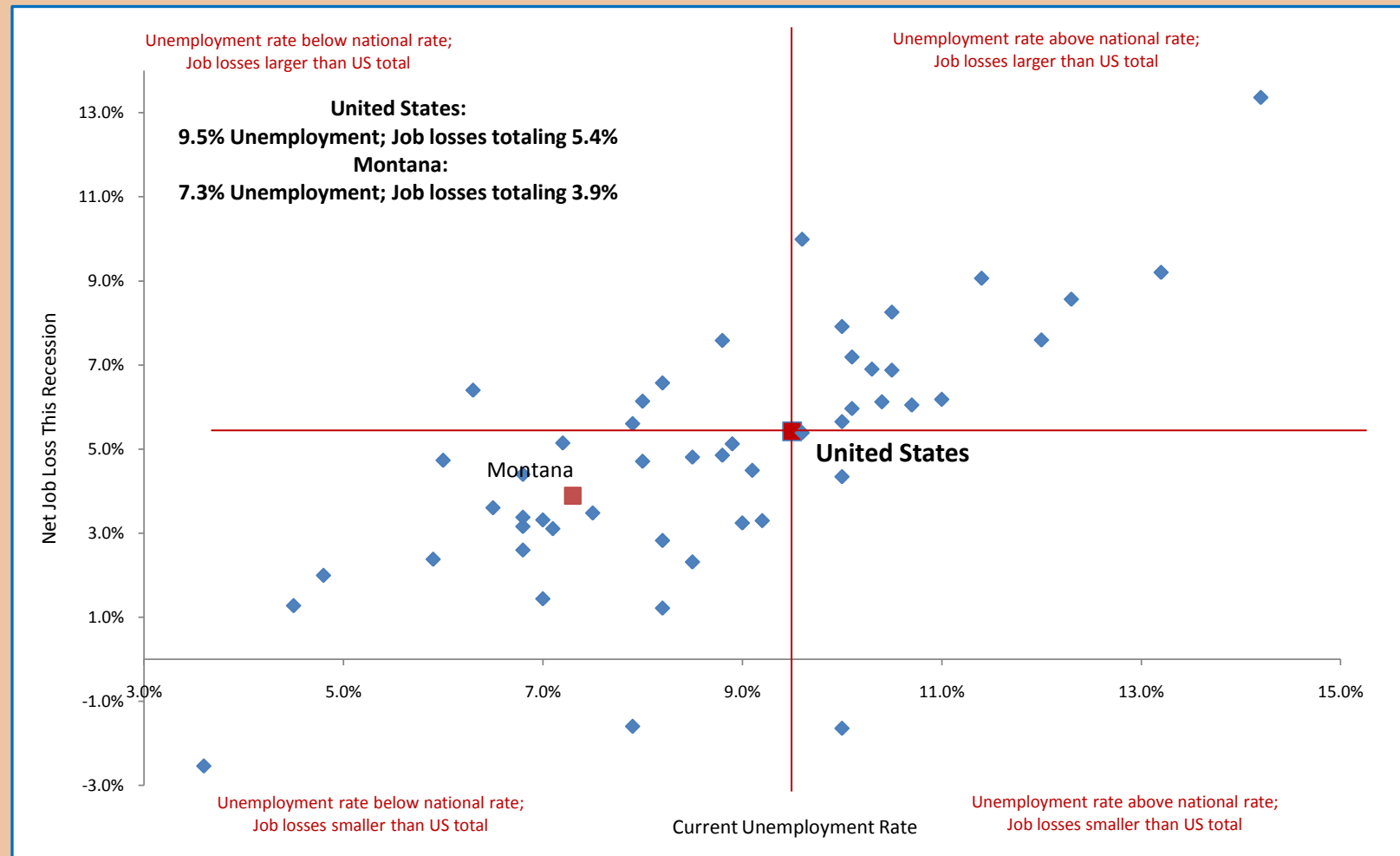
Prepared by the Majority Staff of the Joint Economic Committee

## How Does Montana Compare To Other States?

Workers across the country have been hard hit by the Great Recession. This chart allows you to compare Montana to other states using two metrics.

The current unemployment rate (measured along the horizontal axis) serves as a gauge of current labor market conditions faced by residents, while the proportion of jobs lost within Montana over the course of the recession (shown along the vertical axis) measures the toll the recession has taken on the job supply in Montana.

States falling in the upper right quadrant have lost a disproportionate share of jobs, relative to the total United States, and have unemployment rates higher than the national unemployment rate. States falling in the lower left quadrant have unemployment rates lower than the national average and smaller job losses over the recession.



### STATE QUICK FACTS

		Montana	United States
<b>Unemployment Rates</b> .....	June 2008	4.5%	5.5%
	June 2009	6.2%	9.5%
	June 2010	7.3%	9.5%
<b>Percent of Population Who Are Veterans</b> .....	2008	13.6%	9.8%
<b>Veterans' Unemployment Rate</b> .....	2009	7.5%	8.1%
<b>Median Household Income</b> .....	2000	\$ 40,535	\$ 52,532
	(2008 \$) 2008	\$ 44,116	\$ 51,233
<b>Poverty Rate</b> .....	2000	15.0%	11.6%
	2008	12.9%	12.9%
<b>No Health Insurance</b> .....	2000	16.9%	13.9%
	2008	15.9%	15.3%